

JL
/w

Licensed Professional Counselors Political Action Committee

122 Peabody Hall
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, LA 70803

November 24, 2015

Louisiana Board of Ethics
P.O. Box 4368
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

Dear Ethics Board Members:

We would like to request a waiver of Late Assessment Fees for not submitting our 30th Day Prior to Primary Report (30-P) and our 10th Day Prior to Primary Report (10-P) by the stipulated date. The late fees assessed were \$3000 (30-P) and \$1600 (10-P), respectively. This letter explains the extenuating circumstances that contributed to our failure to submit these two reports per their required dates.


The Late Assessment notification for both the 30-P and 10-P reports reached our office together on October 19. At that point the 30-P was 25 days late and the 10P was 6 days late. The treasurer, Gary Gintner, then contacted the Ethics Board office to clarify the notification as we believed that we did not have to file a report, as the only candidate to whom we made a contribution was Senator Yvonne Dorsey in 2015 who ran unopposed. We learned that because we had made contributions in 2013 and 2014 to candidates who were currently running, we were required to submit both reports. We also learned that we were required to submit a 10G prior to the general election which we still had time to submit. We submitted our 30-P and 10-P reports within 48 hours of contacting your office and later submitted the 10G report on time. We appreciated your staff's clear explanations and clarifications of our misunderstanding of the guidelines. Had we known, we would have certainly submitted these reports, recognizing the importance of following the legal stipulations. To that end, we have put measures in place to ensure that we are aware of reporting requirements.

We are a small PAC of under 50 members who are all mental health counselors. All of our PAC activities and leadership are voluntary and are considered service to promoting our profession. The fee assessment which would total \$4600 is much more than our total contributions this year from these members and this would significantly impact us.

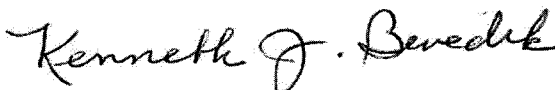
Please consider our request to waive the Late Assessment fees of \$3000 for the 30P report and the \$1600 assessment for the 10P report. We understand that it was our mistake and our misunderstanding of the statutes. We have always striven to follow the guidelines and hope you understand our account of events which led to these reports not being submitted.

Your consideration is appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gary G. Gintner".

Gary G. Gintner,
Treasurer

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kenneth J. Benedik".

Kenneth J. Benedik,
Board Chair